HOWARD CHAYKIN • JORGE FORNÉS • WALTER PEREYRA

ZORRO®

FORNÉS

ZORRO®

starring:

Diego de la Vega
a.k.a. El Zorro

Captain
Esmeralda

Seamus
McCool

ALIEN BOOKS

Character designs by **Jorge Fornés**.

ALIEN BOOKS: Matías Timarchi Editor-in-Chief | **Martín Casanova** Editor | **Clara Bartolozzi** Assistant Editor | **Ezequiel Inverni** & **Camila Prim** Art Department | **Jonathan Betancourt** Business Consultant | **Sadé Paige** Social Media Manager. Special thanks to **Ron Cacace.**

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Buenos Aires.

The spirit of rebellion, the fire of revolution set in the onetime British colonies, first shattered Versailles...

...then came to South America as a shock to an oppressive system.

ANOTHER OF THESE MASKED LEGIONNAIRES!

STEP BACK--

KWOK-KWOK-KLANG!

--AND Y'CAN LEAVE WIT' YER LIFE.

HA!

ONE SWORD AGAINST TWO...

KWOK-KWOK-KLANG!

...FIRST YOU DIE...

KWOKKKWOK SKRITCHWOKKLANGKWOK!

...THEN WE TAKE OUR LEAVE.

KWOKKKWOKKKWOKKKL... SKRITSCH!

ARGENTINA IS NOT THE UNITED STATES, OR FRANCE...

...ARGEN--

--URNGGGLLL...

I'VE TOLD YOU TIME AND *AGAIN*, McCOOL--

KWOKKKWOKKKWOKKKLANG!

THUMP

--YOU SHOULD *NEVER* VENTURE OUT ALONE WITHOUT A *CHAPERONE*.

KWOKKKWOKKKLANG-SKRITSCH!

COWARDS-- HIDING BEHIND MASKS--

COWARDS?

YOU, SIR, SHOULD *BE* SO LUCKY.

KWOK SPANGKLANGG!

KLONG

NOW THEN, McCOOL--

--WHAT DO WE *KNOW*?

THE *FEDERALES'D* J'ST STARTED *BURNIN'* THE INCOMIN' MESSAGES WHEN I *GOT* HERE...

SO WE'VE GOT MOST OF THE INCOMING AND OUTGOING *CORRESPONDENCE*, YES?

YEAH--

THUMP!

--SOME'RE IN *CODE*, I T'INK...

FOOSHH

TIME TO *GO*--

--THE *FLAMES* WILL DEVOUR THE FLAGS AND MAKE COMMUNICATION FOR THE FEDERALES A *WISH* DREAM FOR *WEEKS*.

THIS *ISN'T* CODE...

...IT'S *CATALAN*.

YOU EVER HEAR OF *MOUNT TAMBORA*?

Mount Tambora.

A massive volcanic eruption of cataclysmic devastation.

ZORRO®

presents:

DARK AGE

Part One

Howard Chaykin
WRITER

Jorge Fornés
ARTIST

Walter Pereyra
COLORS

Ezequiel Inverni
LETTERS

Clara Bartolozzi
EDITOR

Matías Timarchi
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A disaster that, in another time, might have been tragic, certainly, but localized...

...becomes, by dint of nature and coincidence...

...a perfect storm.

Everywhere...

...on every continent...

...the sky is ruptured, the clouds remade...

...and the ash that covers the sky of the entire world is only the beginning.

OUR **COVER** STORY, TO EXPLAIN OUR **ACCENTS**...

San Juan Capistrano. Alta California.

...IS WE SERVED A MISSION IN **GIJON**, ON THE BAY OF **BISCAY**...

...WITH MANY **FRENCH** EXPATRIATES IN OUR FLOCK.

CAREFUL THERE, MY MAN--

--WE DON'T WANT ANY **LEAKS** IN THOSE **CASKS**.

NO CALL TO WASTE GOOD **BRANDY**, EH?

EXACTLY.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT **PROGRESS** FROM OUR FRIEND DOWN **SOUTH**?

THE TAMBORA **ERUPTION** HAS CREATED UNANTICIPATED **PROBLEMS** IN THE WEATHER--

--BUT PROBLEMS FOR **ALL**, LEVELING THE BATTLE FIELD...

AND WE, **DESPITE** OUR DISGUISES, KNOW THAT GOD NEITHER **EXISTS**, NOR HAD **ANYTHING** TO DO WITH IT.

Buenos Aires Harbor.

EVERYWHERE WE PUT IN, IT WAS THE SAME--

--THE WEATHER WAS COMPLETELY COCK A LOOP.

TO BE HONEST, I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE SURPRISE WIND AT OUR STERN--

TOQUE DE VENUS

--IT GOT US HERE BEFORE THE SKY OUT TO SEA TURNED NASTY.

THE PRIESTS ARE SAYING WE ARE BEING PUNISHED.

I LACK THE GUILT TO BUY THAT FOOL-ISHNESS.

MOUNT TAMBORA'S ERUPTION IS THE CULPRIT--

--AND AS LONG AS THIS METEOROLOGICAL MADNESS LASTS--

--WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES AS AN ALLY OR AN ENEMY.

YOU ARE A STRANGE ONE, DE LA VEGA--

--MY SHIP!!!

WHOA

ACCIDENT?

ACCIDENT, MY ASS--

--SABOTAGE!

BUT WHO--

NO ONE BUT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL KNOWS I HAVE JOINED THE CAUSE...

SO YOU'VE BEEN BETRAYED...

...BY A BROTHER IN REVOLUTION.

NOTHING ELSE MAKES SENSE.

WAIT-- LISTEN...

YES-- I CAN SMELL IT!

KHBOOM

IT SEEMS, AT LEAST FOR NOW--

--WE HAVE A SKYBORNE *FRIEND*, NOT AN ENEMY.

SO...

...MAYBE THERE *IS* A GOD, AFTER ALL.

LET'S *NOT* GET CARRIED AWAY, NOW--

CAPTAIN-- YOU NEED TO *SEE* THIS.

YES...?

LIKE YOU *SAID*, CAPTAIN--THIS WAS *NO* ACCIDENT.

THIS IS *KINDLING*.

LET ME *SEE* THAT, ESMERALDA.

!?!?

WHAT *IS* IT, ZORRO?

la meva més alta considera
resent missiva, la qu
esser tractada amb la més
extrema cautela, car en ella s'h
contenen noves de gran delica
que no han de caure.
pretext, en man
YOU WERE DEAD *RIGHT* ABOUT *SABOTAGE.*
iga servit el lec atendre
que tot seguit es det
posa, en termes q on
disposat p
revolucionaria.

IT'S SEAMUS McCOOL WHO HAS *BETRAYED* US...

Federal Barracks.

...AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S *MURDERING* HIS WAY TO ESCAPE ANY *JUSTICE.*

MONEY?

YES--BUT I HAVE A *SUSPICION* THAT McCOOL IS AFTER *POWER*, TOO.

THE QUESTION *REMAINS...*

"...WHERE IS THIS MURDEROUS TRAITOR **HIDING**?"

KRAKOOM

EVERYTHING IS IN ***ORDER***, AS ORDERED, SIR.

PERFECT...

...ALL THAT ***REMAINS*** IS T'FLEE THIS MESS AND MAKE OUR ***TRUE*** FORTUNE.

LET'S GET ***ON*** WIT' IT, THEN.

URHMM...

WHAT--YOU SAID WE WERE ***READY***?

WE ARE...

SO...?

IT'S THE ***WEATHER***...

...WE CAN DO ***NOTHING*** UNTIL THE ***RAIN*** ABATES.

Tokyo.

Kona.

London.

Peking

San Juan Capistrano.

YES, IT IS COLD.

SHABOOOM!

YES, IT IS *WET*.

BUT ALONG WITH THE *DISCOMFORT*, WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED A *GIFT*.

SHABOOOM!

A *GIFT*?

A *GIFT*.

THIS FREAKISH WEATHER KEEPS US *TRAPPED*...BUT WE HAVE *MUCH* TO DO ANYWAY...

...AND THE SLEET AND RAIN *DISCOURAGES* CASUAL VISITORS AND *PRYING* EYES.

POINT WELL MADE AND *TAKEN*.

SHABOOOOMM!!

WELL?

IT'S *EASIER* TO SEW CANVAS WHEN IT ISN'T SO DAMNED *MOIST*...

...BUT *COMPARED* TO RUSSIA, THIS IS *HEAVEN*.

HE WAS PROUD OF US *THEN*, AND HE WOULD BE PROUD OF US *NOW*.

OF COURSE, AS HE *OFTEN* SAID, POLITICS MAKES *STRANGE* BEDFELLOWS...

...AND THIS *IRISHMAN* HATES THE ROAST BEEFS AND THE YANKEES AS MUCH AS *WE* DO...

...SO TOGETHER WE WILL REFORGE THE *EMPIRE* IN HIS HALLOWED NAME AND MEMORY...

SHABOOMM

...AND RID OURSELVES OF THE *IRISHMAN* ONCE HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE.

IF *ANYONE* KNOWS WHERE THAT IRISH WEASEL IS HIDING, IT'LL BE ONE OF THE MEN IN THIS *HACIENDA*...

...FEDERAL MILITARY *INTELLIGENCE* IS RUN FROM HERE.

ZUMOOFF!

NOT ANY *MORE*.

RALLY, MEN--

--WE WILL *NOT* BE CUT DOWN.

THAT--

KLANG KLANG KWOKKKWOKKKWOKK

--IS NOT FOR *YOU* TO DECIDE.

SWISH

CLANG

KWOKKWOKKLANG

BLAMM!

KWOKSPANGKLAN

WE WANT *INFORMATION...*

WOKSPANGKLANG

...AND WE ONLY NEED *ONE* OF YOU--

BLAMM!

--TO *LEARN* WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW.

WE *KNOW* SEAMUS McCOOL WAS WORKING WITH *FEDERAL* INTELLIGENCE.

McCOOL--THAT *TREACHEROUS* DOG!!

HE BETRAYED *YOU*...

"...AND TURNED ON *US* AS WELL.

"HIS **LOYALTY** IS TO ANOTHER POWER **ENTIRELY**...

"...GERMANY, OR ENGLAND, OR FRANCE...

"...HE TALKED OF A **REPUBLIC**...

"...BUT WITH RESPECT, OR CONTEMPT, I CAN'T **SAY**...

"...HIS SPANISH WAS TERRIBLE."

THERE IS NO *GOD*, OF COURSE.

...BUT IT'S CERTAINLY ABOUT DAMNED *TIME* HE SMILED DOWN ON US.

HAVE WE HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE *IRISHMAN*?

THE TELEGRAPH HAS BEEN *DOWN* THROUGH THE STORM...

...SO WE ARE IN THE *DARK* AS TO HIS PROGRESS.

WE'RE MAKIN' GOOD *PROGRESS*--

--BUT THIS MAD WEATHER'S COST US *TIME*...

...LOST TIME WE *HAFTA* MAKE UP.

French Embassy.

NOW THEN, EXCELLENCY...

...I WOULD BE *WARY* OF TESTING MY *PATIENCE*, SIR...

...I AM *NOT* A PATIENT MAN.

McCOOL IS IN *IGLESIA DE SAN PATRICIO* IN SAN TELMO.

NOW, HOW HARD WAS *THAT*?

HAD YOU SIMPLY *TOLD* ME IN THE *FIRST* PLACE...

...YOU WOULD HAVE *AVOIDED* SOILING THOSE WHITE *PANTALOONS* OF YOURS.

EXCELLENCY--!

BAMKRASH!

STOP HIM--

--HE'S GETTING *AWAY!*

KRAKKAKBLAM!

ZORRO!!?!?

IEEEE

DAMN YOU, ZORRO--

--YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE HORSES!

McCOOL ISN'T YOUR PROBLEM.

POPPYCOCK AND BALDERDASH--

--THAT BASTARD SET MY SHIP ON FIRE.

THERE IS THAT.

SO-- WHAT'S OUR PLAN?

WE HAVE A VERY SIMPLE PLAN.

WE INTERROGATE HIM AND FIND OUT WHO HIS TRUE MASTER IS...

...AND THEN WE MAKE CERTAIN HE WILL NEVER THREATEN THE REVOLUTION AGAIN.

ZORRO!!?

KILL THEM--

BLAM!

BLAM!

KWOKKWOKK WOKKLANG

KWOK-KLANG!

KLANGSKRITSCHH

KLANG!

--OR ALL OUR WORK IS FOR NOTHIN'!

KWOKKWOKSKRITCHWOKKLANGKWOK!

KLANG!

KWOK-KLANG!

KWOK KWOK

KLANG!

KLANGSKRITSCHH

KLANG!

BLAM-

SPANGG!!

YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN, McCOOL!

SKAASSHHHHH

SO Y'SAYS--

--SO Y'SAYS.

UNNNGGGGHHH!

SEE YA IN *HELL*, SLY FOX--

--OR IN *CALIFORNIA*--

--WHICHEVER COMES *FIRST*.

SNAKKKK!!

ZORRO--!?!

HE *WON'T* GET AWAY WITH THIS.

SKLAPPPP!!

NOT A CHANCE, BHOYO--

--NOT A CHANCE IN HELL.

KROK KROK KROK

KROK KROK KROK

KRAKAKRAK-SNEP!!

AS I SAYS--

KROK!

--HELL IT'LL HAFTA BE!

UNNGGG

#1 SPECIAL PREVIEW

COVER BY AARON LOPRESTI

ALIEN BOOKS

ZORRO'S® LEGACY

ABNETT LOPRESTI RYAN PEREYRA

SHALL WE BEGIN?
SNAP

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEW DESIGN.

NEW POWERS.

NEW WORLD ORDER.

IN STORES JUNE

Collecting the first six issues of the groundbreaking new series, End of the Reign launches an interconnected Godzilla universe unlike anything before.

IDW COMICS & ENTERTAINMENT

GODZILLA ゴジラ

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